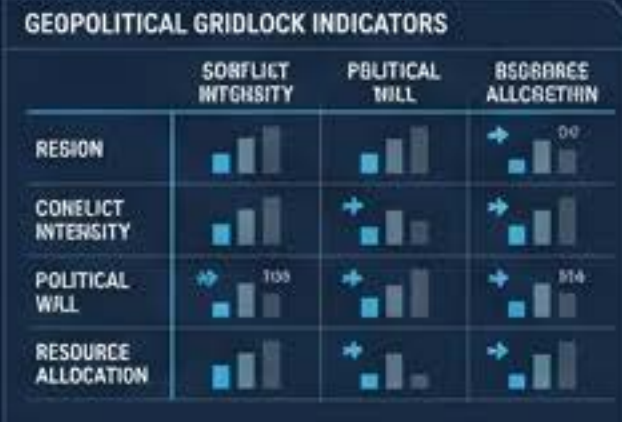


AISP/SPIA Strategic Intelligence Brief

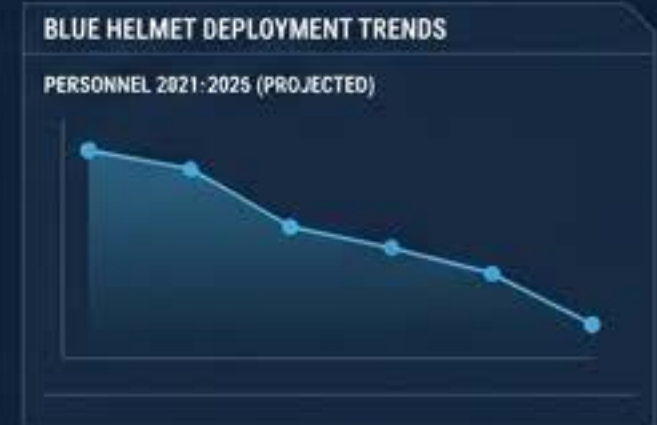
Weekly Info No. 23

Navigating the Cost of Peace: Geopolitical Gridlock, Mission Transitions, and the Future of the Blue Helmet



FUTURE CHALLENGES DIAGNOSTIC

CHALLENGE	IMPACT	MITIGATION STRATEGY	STATUS
FUTURE CHALLENGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geopolitical tensions Operational readiness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration Training exercises 	
OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human resources Equipment maintenance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment Logistics optimization 	HIGH RISK
FINANCIAL CHALLENGES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget constraints Operational costs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efficiency improvements Resource allocation 	



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Strategic Overview: The Dissonance of Modern Peacekeeping

“Peacekeepers continue to face peril in the cause of peace—and we pay the highest tribute to their service and sacrifice.”

— UN Secretary-General António Guterres

Deployment & Sacrifice Data

50,000+ peacekeepers are currently deployed globally.

Honoring the Lost

This week, we honor the **4,500+** lost since 1948—including 59 who paid the ultimate price last year—while simultaneously tracking the systemic financial and political gridlock hampering their protection.



Briefing Trajectory & Focus Areas

- ➔ 1. Honoring the Fallen
- ➔ 2. UNHQ Strategic Horizon
- ➔ 3. Theater Operations & Transitions
- ➔ 4. Cross-Cutting Threats & The ROI of Peace

The Cost of Peace: Roll of Honor



Dag Hammarskjöld Medal

**Sgt. Milovan Jovanović
(Serbia)**

First deployment. Killed in action by mortar fire near Marjayoun, Lebanon (UNIFIL), just days before his 37th birthday. The 7th UNIFIL fatality since March.



Capt. Mbaye Diagne Medal

**Sgt. Matias Reyes
(Uruguay)**

Awarded for exceptional courage in saving lives in the restive eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo.



Capt. Mbaye Diagne Medal

**Sergii Prykhodko
(Ukraine)**

Posthumously honored. Sacrificed his life during a highly dangerous helicopter evacuation of besieged soldiers in South Sudan (UNMISS).

Trailblazers in the Field: 2025/2026 Honors



**Major
Abhilasha Barak
(India)**

Deployment: UNIFIL (Lebanon)

Recognition: Military Gender Advocate
of the Year Award



**Inspector
Stephanie Königs
(Germany)**

Deployment: UNMISS (South Sudan)

Recognition: 2025 Woman Police
Officer of the Year Award

The courage we recognize is not abstract. It is lived every day by peacekeepers in the world's most dangerous environments. — Jean-Pierre Lacroix

The Anatomy of Vulnerability: Financial & Political Gridlock



Strategic Horizon: Security Council Dynamics



June 2026 Presidency: Colombia

- ▶ **Focus:** High-level open debate on Advancing Peace in the Middle East.
- ▶ **Signature Event:** Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) debate emphasizing women's active participation in peace processes.
- ▶ **Annual Event:** Children and Armed Conflict open debate (30th anniversary of the mandate).



The 2027-2028 Incoming Class

On June 3, the UNGA elected five new members for the 2027-2028 term: Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad and Tobago, and Zimbabwe.

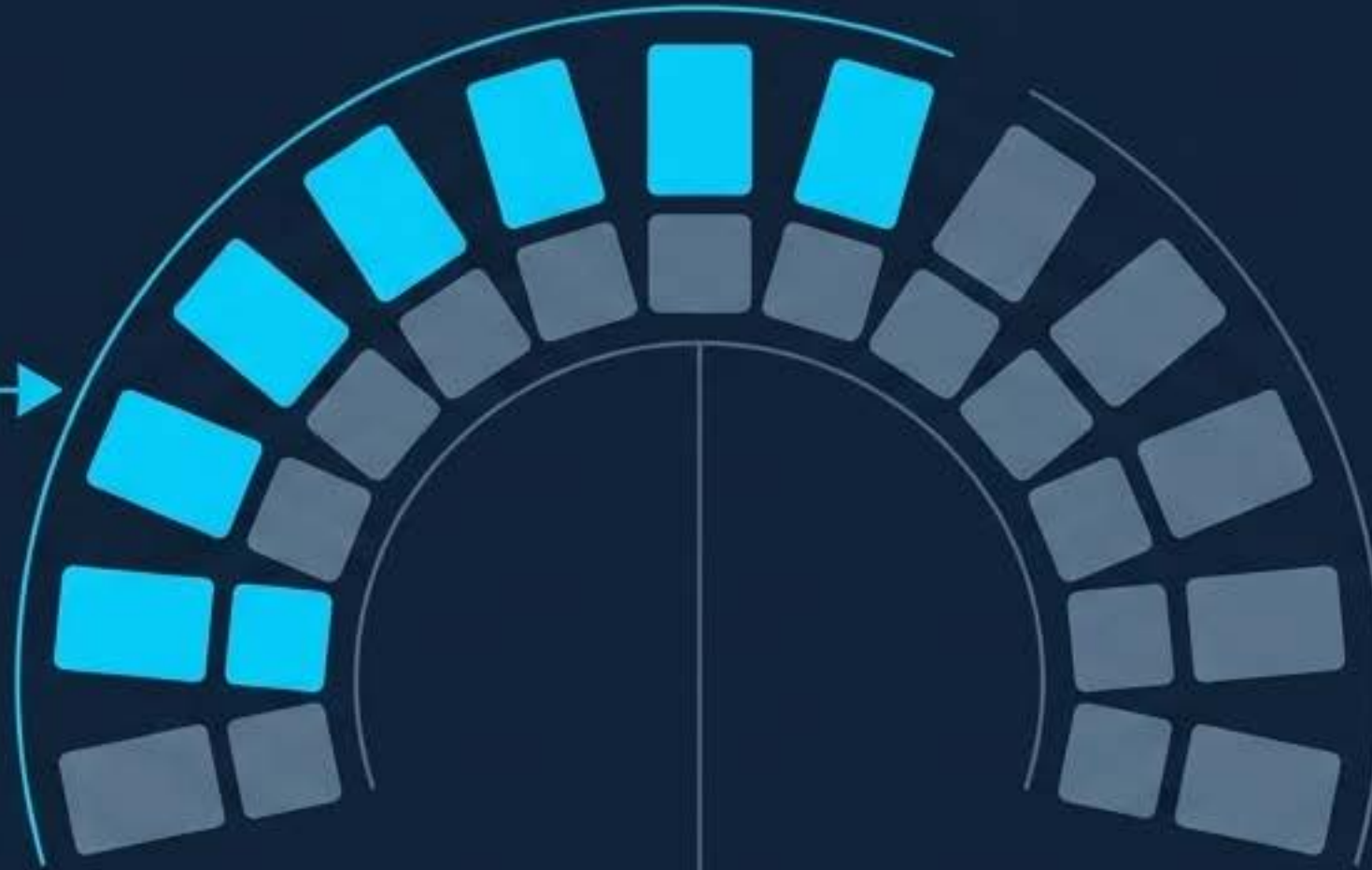
Strategic shift: This incoming class will navigate highly entrenched divisions, peacekeeping liquidity challenges, and shifting Great Power dynamics.

The R2P Balance of Power (2027 Security Council)

Mapping the Friends of the Responsibility to Protect

Illuminated Seats (Friends of R2P)

7 out of 15 members in 2027 will officially belong to the **Group of Friends of R2P**, demonstrating strong commitments to atrocity prevention.



AISP Strategic Takeaway

With nearly half the Council aligned on R2P, there is a strategic opening to mandate **stricter early warning assessments and human rights components** within peacekeeping missions.

Key Incoming Allies



The election of **Austria** and **Portugal** adds crucial **ACT Code of Conduct** signatories who also support the France/Mexico Veto Restraint Declaration regarding mass atrocities.

Mission Transition Diagnostic: Active Theaters

Mission	Current Footprint	Immediate Threat	Transition Strategy	AISP Note
UNIFIL (Lebanon)	10,000+ under fire	Heavy cross-border Israel-Hezbollah hostilities	Phased adjustment post-2026 to support LAF	Highest immediate risk to personnel.
AUSSOM (Somalia)	Deployed across 49 locations	Resurgent Al-Shabaab, complex IEDs	Phased transfer to Somali security forces, EU €75M funding	Severe equipment/drone deficits remain.
MINUSCA (CAR)	Stabilizing post-elections	Resource constraints limiting coverage	Gradual handover to CAR authorities; active DDR (3R & UPC)	Liquidity crisis directly degrading capabilities.
MONUSCO (DRC)	Eastern DRC focus	M23 expansion, heavily armed proxies	Ongoing withdrawal amid escalating regional war	Transition paralyzed by lack of ceasefire conditions.

UNIFIL Post-2026: The SG's Proposed Force Structures

Heavy Force

- 5,500+ personnel.
- Maintains robust presence to heavily monitor Blue Line.
- Requires massive sustained funding.

Medium Force

- 1,500 personnel.
- Streamlined command focusing on critical flashpoints and high-mobility liaison.

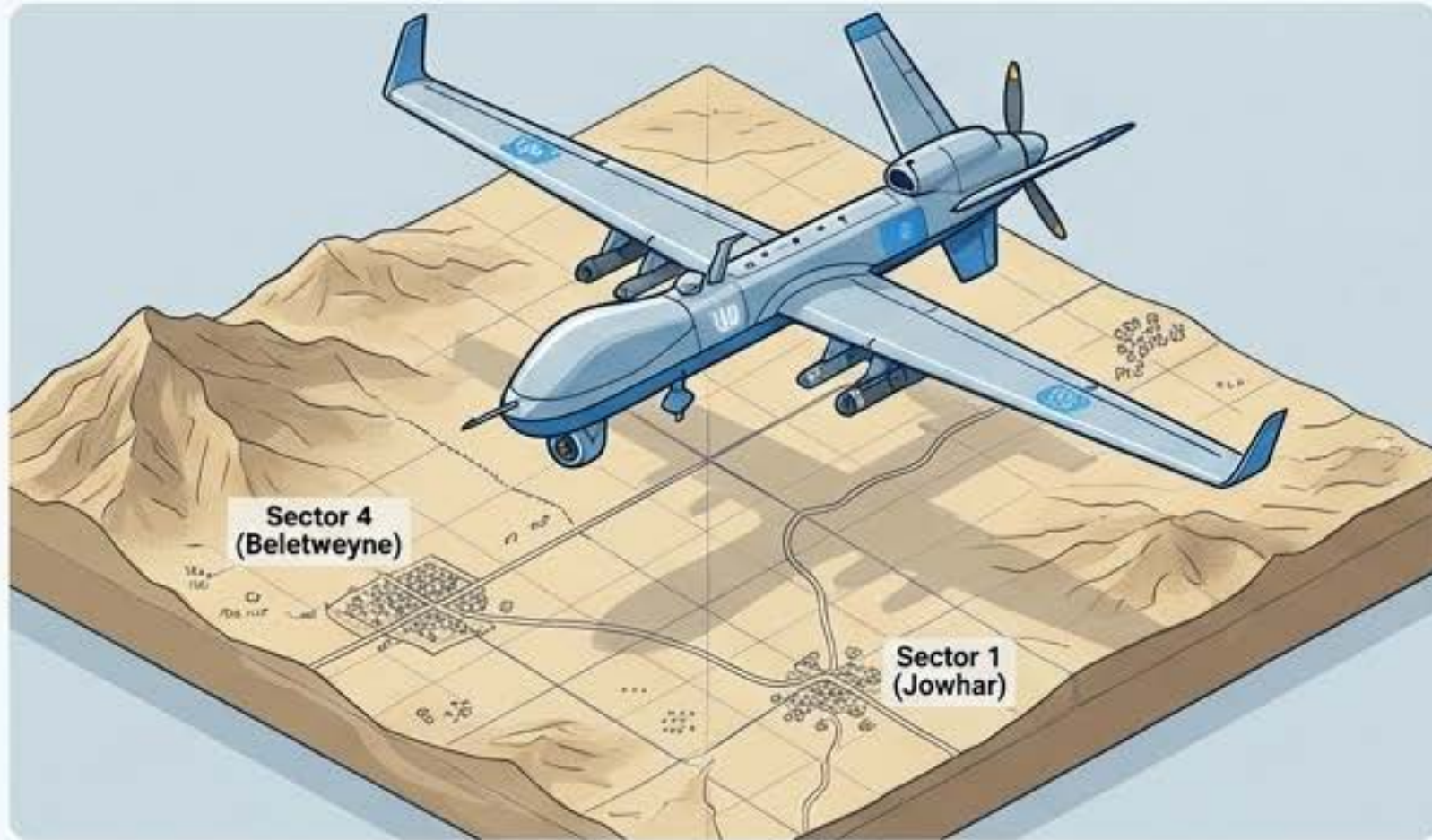
Light Observer Force

- 215 military observers, 900 light infantry (2 battalions), 350-member quick reaction force.
- Relies heavily on advanced tech (drones/radars).
- Cannot monitor the entirety of the Blue Line continuously.

Strategic Intent: Implement Resolution 1701 & Support Lebanese Armed Forces.

Theater Spotlight: AUSSOM (Somalia)

Tactical Evolution



Peacekeepers in **Sector 4 (Beletweyne)** and **Sector 1 (Jowhar)** have completed specialized drone training to counter Al-Shabaab's evolving use of complex IEDs and ambush tactics.

Strategic Viability

- **Funding Lifeline:** The European Union has approved an additional €75 million to cover troop allowances and non-lethal equipment.
- **Transition Friction:** AUSSOM remains extended across 49 locations (double the original concept of 23) to prevent security vacuums, complicating the phased handover to Somali forces.
- **Diplomatic Stalemate:** Ongoing US/UK facilitated talks between the Federal Government and opposition over constitutional amendments remain gridlocked, threatening broader stability.

Theater Spotlight: Central Africa

MONUSCO (DRC - Friction)

The crisis deepens as the **M23 rebel group establishes administrative structures in North Kivu.**

Peacekeeper transition is effectively frozen; conditions for MONUSCO to assume a **ceasefire monitoring role** are entirely absent.

MINUSCA (CAR - Success)

The Am-Dafock Example: When Sudan's war spilled over, MINUSCA established a **temporary base near Birao.** Peacekeepers facilitated local dialogues between CAR and Sudanese communities, allowing **11,000 displaced people to safely return home.**

1,200+ former combatants demobilized since July, proving the ROI of sustained presence.

The 2026 Threat Perimeter for Peacekeepers



Operations face compounding pressures. Reduced budgets meet expanding technological threats in highly fragmented battle-spaces.

Systemic Vulnerabilities: WPS & CAAC

Children & Armed Conflict

- 🌐 Marking the 30th Anniversary of the CAAC mandate.
- 🌐 **Data:** Over 41,370 verified grave violations in the last reporting year (a 25% increase).
- ⚠️ **Emerging Threat:** Armed actors increasingly utilizing drones and social media to influence, extort, and recruit children.

Women, Peace & Security

- 🌐 **Data:** Women represented only 7% of peace process negotiators globally in 2024.
- ⚠️ **The Backlash:** The UN Secretary-General reports a stagnation and regression of the WPS agenda, with critical gender language systematically removed from recent peacekeeping mandate renewals (e.g., UNISFA, UNFICYP, UNMISS).

Synthesis: The ROI of the Blue Helmet



The entire annual budget for all 10 UN Peacekeeping operations globally is **\$5.4 Billion**.



That amount represents the equivalent of just **16 hours** of global military expenditure.

The cost of prevention and stabilization is always far lower than the cost of conflict, displacement and instability... Peace does not happen by accident. We must choose to invest in it. – USG Jean-Pierre Lacroix



AISP/SPIA

Association Internationale des Soldats de la Paix

Soldiers of Peace International Association

We stand with the Blue Helmets. The cost of peace is absolute, but the cost of inaction is unacceptable.

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End of Briefing – Weekly Info No. 23